



Weekly Information & Communication



November 10, 2014

Conference Call

Thank you all for attending the Local Agency Conference Call on Thursday. Please review the [minutes](#) and ensure this information is shared with staff that were unable to attend.

Benefits Issued & Redeemed Report

We have found that creating the Benefits Issued & Redeemed Report a full month later is more reflective of the benefit cashing patterns of WIC retailers. Please review the [September 2014](#) report and expect the Oct. 2014 report in early December.

FFY15 Benefit Over-Issuance Policy Change

Anytime there is an over issuance of benefits the local agency is charged a monetary penalty for the value of the benefits over issued. This process will change at the beginning of FFY15. The October Over-Issuance Statements will be sent in early December which will have any over issuance occurrences from October 2014.

- 1) When an over issuance of benefits occurs the state WIC office will send a notification letter and statement informing the local agency of the amount to be reimbursed to the State WIC office.
- 2) The monetary penalty will no longer be taken out of the local agency's WIC budget. Now, instead of deducting the fee from expenditure reimbursements, the over issuance fee must be paid in the form of a check and sent to Corinne Kyler at the State WIC Office. This check must be received by our office within 30 days of the statement date. If the fee is not received expenditure payments will be held until fee has been reconciled.

This policy change is referenced in the FFY 2015 State Plan, Chapter 8.

Milk Change Resources

Remember to please use the resources provided in the 10/20/14 Newsletter: [Helping Participants Switch, Lowfat Milk is a Healthy Choice](#), and the [Milk Insert for Participant Booklets](#).

These examples from others states may also help:

http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Sharing_Center/ND/Milk.pdf

North Dakota

http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Sharing_Center/MA/NewMAMaterials/Milk.pdf

Massachusetts

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Pages/LowfatMilkChangeEducation.aspx>

California website

<http://adph.org/wiclessons/assets/MooveToLowfatMilk.pdf>

Alabama modified Texas item

http://www.kansaswic.org/download/moovetolowfatmilk/Interactive_Center_Moove_to_Lowfat_or_Fat_Free_Milk_Lesson_Plan.pdf

Kansas

https://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/wic/Documents/fc_inservice_milk.pdf

Oregon staff

https://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/wic/Documents/fc_ne_milk.pdf

Oregon participant

<http://www.nutritionnc.com/wic/pdf/lowerfatmilk/lowerfatmilkminilesson.pdf>

North Carolina

<http://www.nutritionnc.com/moveMilk.htm>

North Carolina web page, several items

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nutrition/6588>

North Carolina school-age, but it might have something you can use

Texas has a lesson plan and “passports” in the Sharing Gallery of WIC Works as Make the Move to Low-Fat Milk under the topic WIC Food Packages.

CEU Opportunities

Today's Dietitian is offering the webinar "[Developments in Protein's Role in Promoting Lean Body Mass](#)" on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, from 12 noon to 1 pm. You must register but there is no cost. It is eligible for 1 WIC CEU.

Skelly Skills is offering a free teleseminar "[Using Mindfulness to Increase Self-Control: Strategies to Help Adults and Kids Resist Temptation and Delay Gratification](#)". It is scheduled for November 19, 2014, at 5:00 pm. It is worth 1 WIC CEU. You will need to register.

[ILCA is offering two breastfeeding webinars](#). "Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy and Lactation" is scheduled for December 10, 2014. The second webinar, "Working and Breastfeeding Made Simple" is scheduled for January 8, 2015. Both will be held from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Each is eligible for 1.5 WIC CEUs and L-CERPS have a registration fee of \$40. You must register by December 8th and January 6th respectively.

PLOS ONE published "[Reassessing the Impact of Smoking on Preeclampsia/Eclampsia: Are There Age and racial Differences?](#)" This article is eligible for 1 WIC CEU.

Loving Support Award of Excellence

Local agencies who have operated a breastfeeding peer counselor program for over a year can apply for this award. More information, FAQs and an application are available at [WIC Works](#).

Montana Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MT MECHV) Referral Form

MT MECHV has a [referral form](#) they would like completed on WIC participants referred to one of their local programs. The WIC participant must sign the form just as they would sign any other release of information form. Send the form with the participant for their MT MECHV appointment.

Prosobee Label Change

Please note that the label on ProSobee cans is changing. Also, the label will state "Soy for Sensitive Tummy" instead of "Soy for Fussiness and Gas". The [new labels](#) should start appearing on shelves in January.



Certification Policy Tip of the Week



Certification/Eligibility is a major focus of current FNS WIC program integrity strategies. This area will be reviewed across all State agencies during upcoming Management Evaluations. To support this effort, the Mountain Plains Regional Office is beginning a series of **technical assistance policy tips each week**. These tips are intended to assist State agencies as they work to preserve program integrity and strengthen the certification process.

Mandatory mid-certification action:

Question: Are local agency staff required to ask clients if their income has changed at mid-certification appointments?

Answer: The regulations do not require local agencies to inquire about income changes at mid-certification appointments. Once a client is certified as income eligible, they are considered eligible for the entire certification period. However, clients have the responsibility to report income changes to the local agency. Additionally, the local agency staff must take follow-up actions to reassess a participant's income eligibility during their current certification period if they receive information indicating that the participant's household income has changed (this includes anonymous tips received regarding a participant's income). This reassessment is not required if there is 90 days or less left in the certification period. (Reference: 246.7(h)(1))



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A copy of all newsletters can be found on the WIC website - go to <http://wic.mt.gov>
USDA prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs
